

On your bike!

Steve Crombie is a man on a mission – to become the youngest person ever to travel across the earth on a motorbike. All with just two pairs of underpants! DMAG chatted to him about the journey so far ...



DMAG: What did you set out to do on the latest leg of the trip?

Steve: To travel from the Antarctic to the Arctic Circle, visiting every country in South, Central and North America. Along the way I crossed the Andes three times, dragged

my motorcycle through the Amazon for 8000km, and travelled about 90,000km.

DMAG: Why a motorbike?

Steve: Every opportunity is available, you can take any direction. If you meet a nice person, you can stop and talk for half an hour, or stay the whole day. You can sleep where you want, eat where you want - it's the ultimate version of freedom.

DMAG: What type of bike did you have?

Steve: A Honda NX650. It's a single cylinder, four stroke, off-road bike. It's set up for endurance and long-range touring.

DMAG: Did you get really attached to the bike while you were away?

Steve: Initially I loved the motorcycle. But then it became a long, lengthy love/hate relationship, where sometimes it would perform its duty, and other times it never would. I rebuilt it four times, so we went through a lot of pain and great experiences together. Later on, I'm going to gold plate it and hang it on the wall.



Eat in or takeaway?:
Steve picks up a fantastic seafood breakfast



The barren Salar de Uyuni salt plain in Bolivia.

How about raw conch for dinner?



DMAG: What was the most incredible thing you saw on the trip?

Steve: A puma. I was riding out of Guyana thinking that I was never going to see one, then this huge puma just comes out from the side of the road. My jaw just dropped, watching this thing

just lope along, and I was so excited I crashed five minutes afterwards ... ran straight into a dirt embankment. Almost running over a boa constrictor, that was pretty cool too.

DMAG: Were you scared?

Steve: Nah, I've seen a lot of snakes now. I was excited - it was this big fat snake. It's not gonna chase you, they can't turn very quickly.

DMAG: What one possession did you



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- the world's largest
rodent!**

treasure the most?

Steve: My knife. I used it for everything - slicing food ... opening cans, skinning things.

DMAG: And what item did you miss the most?

Steve: I didn't really miss anything. I had a good book, my tent to sleep in, sleeping bag, fishing line, clothes, water purifier, cooking gear, survival knives, video camera, computer, still-shot camera, GPS, iPod ... I had everything I needed.

DMAG: I heard you did a bit of self-medication...

Steve: Yeah, regularly. You'd get dysentery, parasites, various cuts and things. You have to be able to fix yourself, stitch yourself up, inject yourself, give yourself various medications. I helped stitch a guy up who got caught by a wild pig in the Amazon, then piggybacked him for two kilometres through the jungle.

DMAG: What was the weirdest, grossest thing you ate?

Steve: Guinea pig, they're a delicacy in Bolivia, a really sweet meat. And rat on a stick, that tasted alright. Various insects, like a moth. It's got this kind of light caramely goo, but it wasn't as nice as I'd hoped. I also went hunting with some Indians for caiman, which is like a crocodile, and then skinned and ate that, it tasted really good. Rattle snake tastes really good, pig brain tacos are pretty tasty, and the cartilage on the pig's skull. When you're out on the road with no money, you're prepared to eat anything.



Hitching a ride's a breeze in this part of the world.



DMAG: What travel tip would you pass on to any budding young adventurers?

Steve: Spend as much time doing as much research as is humanly possible into every single item you take with you. Only take what is necessary, and ensure you're prepared for any conditions.

DMAG: What did you learn from some of the kids you met?

Steve: Some kids have nothing, but they can have fun

with anything and everything. They're happy just having food on their plate. Just having an education ... just having clothes and shoes, you're lucky. **Steve's off to Vancouver, Canada now - check out his progress at www.loston.com**

Steve is working with Youth Insearch, a group that helps young people take control of their lives and establish new goals and directions. Find out more at www.youthinsearch.org.au.

Motorcycle Jedi

If you're into motorbike adventures, check out another epic journey on DVD! Ewan McGregor (Star Wars' Obi-wan Kenobi) and his best friend Charlie Boorman travelled over 30,000 kilometres from London to New York, through countries like Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Check out McGregor trying out Jedi mind tricks on commuters who stop to peer at his broken-down bike ... "These aren't the bikes you're looking for..."

Catch Ewan in his Long Way Round DVD.

